

## New Categorical Exclusions for Soil and Water Restoration Road and Trail Restoration

### Project: Cecilia Road Closure and Decommissioning Unit: Coyote Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest

#### What Were The Restoration Needs?

The existing road network was causing sedimentation in streams, degrading wildlife habitat, and increasing the risk of damage to archaeological resources. The remote location of the road network also encouraged trash dumping and poaching.

#### What Activities Were Implemented?

The Forest Service completed an environmental analysis to decommission 355 miles of road that are ecologically damaging and no longer needed. While much work remains, thus far more than 35 miles of road have been decommissioned and re-contoured. The road beds are successfully revegetating with native grasses, plants, and trees.

#### What Are The Benefits of Restoration?

This work has resulted in improved water quality for downstream users and fish habitat by reducing the risk of sedimentation. The project has also enhanced wildlife habitat and improved soil productivity through reduced compaction.

The local community also benefited from this project through the generation of employment opportunities.

#### Who Were The Partners?

The Coyote Ranger District partnered with WildEarth Guardians, Forest Guild and the Jemez Mountain School District and received funding under the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program.

**Before:**



**1 Year After:**

